

**40TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (AC)
OF THE PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION (PAPU)**

**KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
4TH TO 14TH JULY 2022**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Country flag



Coat of arms



1. VENUE

Pullman Hôtel Kinshasa
4, Avenue Batetela, Kinshasa-Gombe
Site web : www.al.accor.com

2. GEOGRAPHY GEOGRAPHIQUE

Located in Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo spreads from the Atlantic Ocean to the eastern plateaus and lakes, and occupies the bulk of the Congo basin. The country is quadruple the size of France and eighty times the size of Belgium. The world's 11th largest nation with an area of 2,345,409 km², the DRC borders nine neighboring countries, including Angola to the west-southwest, the Republic of Congo to the west, the Central African Republic to the north, South Sudan to the northeast, Uganda to the east-northeast, Rwanda and Burundi to the east, Tanzania to the east-southeast and Zambia to the south-southeast.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a highly decentralized unitary state. By virtue of its geographical position, it is a member of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), a member of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC). The country has an estimated population of 105,044,646 inhabitants.

Its capital city Kinshasa spans an area of 9,965 km² with an estimated population of 17 million in its metropolitan area in 2021. Indeed, it is the third most populous city in Africa after Cairo and Lagos, and is the world's largest French-speaking conurbation.

3. CLIMATE

The country straddles the equator and its climate is equatorial, hot and humid in the central region and tropical in the north and south. The climatic variations prevailing work in the country generate highly diverse ecosystems with an abundant biodiversity.

Half of the territory, comprising the central basin, is covered by forests. The other half, closer to the tropics, is predominantly savannas (plateaus and highlands).

The DRC's soils are mainly equatorial, tropical and azonal types, forming vast expanses of uncultivated arable land with excellent climatic conditions. The climates and vegetation patterns define four clear zones: an equatorial zone in the central basin with high temperatures and rainfall (between 23 and 26° and 1,765 mm rainfall in Kisangani, more than 2,000 mm in the lower Tshuapa valley) and dense forests; two tropical zones conducive to savanna trees on either side of the fourth parallels to the north and south (between 22 and 27° and 1,415 mm in Kinshasa).

A high altitude zone, less hot and less rainy, to the east and southeast (between 16 and 22° and 1,200 mm in Lubumbashi). This natural configuration offers the following picture: in the east, the rich basaltic soil is excellent for agriculture. In the southeast, the expanse of savanna is interspersed with numerous gallery forests that reflect the dense network of waterways. There is a layered vegetation in the eastern mountains, from tropical forest to high altitude grassland.

In Kinshasa, the climate is hot and rainy from October to May and pleasant from June to September. In July, the average temperature is 20°C.

4. TOURISM

The Democratic Republic of the Congo presents unique attributes and features in terms of relief, climate, fauna and flora that allow it to offer various kinds of tourist attractions year round, including: beach tourism, mountain tourism, congress and business tourism, safari and hunting tourism, eco-tourism and cultural tourism.

5. FLIGHTS AND ENTRY VISA

a) Flights

Kindly note that the final destination is Nd'jili International Airport located approximately 27 kilometers from the center of the City-Province of Kinshasa, i.e. a 1h20 drive away. The following international airlines fly to Nd'jili International Airport:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| * Kenya Airways | * Bruxelles Airlines |
| * Ethiopian Airlines | * Air France |
| * RwandAir | * South African Airways |
| * Turkish Airlines | |

Dedicated staff will be posted at the airport to welcome delegates.

b) Entry visa to the DRC

1. The list of African countries exempt from entry visa requirements into the Democratic Republic of Congo include:
 - Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC): Rwanda and Burundi.
 - SADC countries: South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Swaziland, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.
 - Benin
 - Senegal
 - United Arab Emirates: Visa exemption for officials only;
 - Turkey: visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports only.

2. The list of African countries with a flying visa convention with the DRC (visa issued at airport) include:

The flying visa is issued in instances where requests for visas are received from nationals of countries with no Congolese diplomatic representatives. Accordingly, for nationals of African countries where the Democratic Republic of Congo does not have a diplomatic mission, they can have their Ministry of Foreign Affairs write a letter to the competent authorities of the DRC to facilitate their travel by issuing them flying visas.

Actually, there are no formally established agreements as such but rather principles that apply to facilitate travel by people wishing to visit the DRC. Therefore, it is important for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to notify diplomatic missions in Africa by way of repeated messages that the 40th Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council will be hosted in Kinshasa (DRC), as this will facilitate participants' travel to attend the event.

Visa application forms can be downloaded from the website www.evisa.gouv.cd.

Since the PAPU headquarters is located in Arusha, Tanzania, our Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam will be instructed to serve as interface between our Government and PAPU.

6. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be provided on arrival and departure. Additionally, buses will shuttle between the recommended hotels and the Pullman Hotel. Transportation will also be available for social events organized for the delegates.

7. ACCOMMODATION

a) Booking

For your hotel bookings, please send the duly completed hotel booking form attached with the registration documents for the hotel of your choice, preferably selected from the list of recommended hotels, to the Technical Secretary of the National Organizing Committee of the 40th Ordinary Session of the PAPU Administrative Council **or to one of the contact addresses mentioned in point 22 of this document**. Preferential rates have been secured with some hotels and are mentioned on the list of recommended hotels.

b) Payment

Payment of rooms (for all recommended hotels) should be made directly to the hotel by the participants themselves. Payment methods are indicated in the attached hotel reservation form.

8. REGISTRATION DESK

Participants will have themselves registered at the meeting venue at the entrance of main hall. Only participants who have formally submitted their registration form will receive their pre-made badge.

9. SECURITY/SAFETY

As the DRC's political capital, the city of Kinshasa is a regular venue for international events. As such, it offers fairly good security levels for travelers. However, as in all major cities, it is important to take precautions for your personal security/safety and to use your common sense.

For all intents and purposes, a dedicated security post will be set up at the meeting venue.

10. TIME ZONE

Time zone GMT+1 (Central Africa Time (CAT)).

11. CURRENCY

The transaction currency in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the Congolese Franc (CDF). Foreign currencies easily convertible into CDF are the US dollar (US\$) and the Euro (€). Credit cards (Visa, Master Card) are generally accepted.

The exchange rates are as follows:

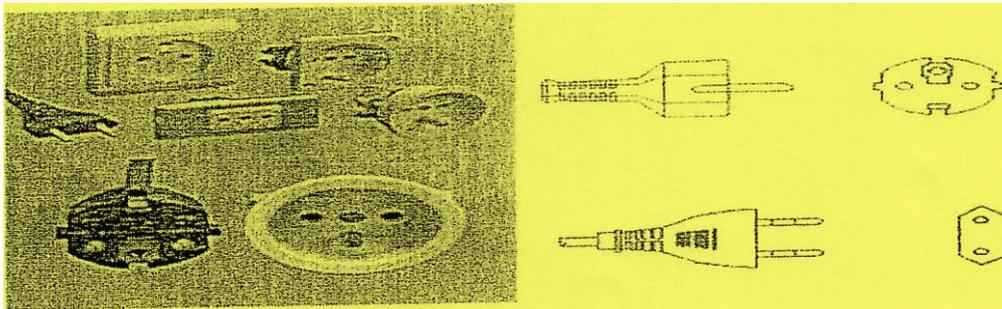
- €1 = CDF 2,188;
- US\$1 = CDF 2,000.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

The DRC's telephone country code is 00243. The country has 4 mobile telephone operators, namely: Airtel, Vodacom, Orange and Africell.

13. ELECTRICITY

In the DRC, the electricity voltage is 220 Volts, with a frequency of 50Hz. The power sockets used are illustrated below:



14. OFFICE HOURS

- Government offices: open from Monday to Friday (except holidays) from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm, and on Saturday from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm;
- Banks: Open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm (excluding holidays) and on Saturday (for some banks) from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

15. CULTURE, RELIGION ET LANGUES

The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to several ethnic groups that speak more than 400 different languages. The official language is French. However, the law recognizes four national languages: Lingala, Swahili, Kikongo and Chiluba. The Congolese population is predominantly Christian, broken down into Catholics, Protestants and Kimbanguists. Islam is the country's second largest religion.

16. HEALTH SERVICES

The city has four major public hospitals and several large private clinics. Visitors are required to check with their medical insurance providers to confirm whether their health insurance policies cover them in the DRC.

NB: For all intents and purposes, a dedicated medical facility will be set up at the meeting venue.

a) Yellow fever vaccination certificate

In order to comply with international health regulations, the health services of the DRC may require travelers to present a valid international vaccination certificate. Additionally, certificates are required for travelers who have transited through infected areas.

Any expense for immunization of an inbound traveler against yellow fever will be borne by the traveler.

These recommendations are based on those of the World Health Organization (2003) and the Center for Disease Control (2003).

b) COVID-19 rules for travelers

- Incoming delegates must have a "Negative" COVID-19 PCR CERTIFICATE issued no later than 48 hours prior to boarding.
- Outgoing delegates leaving the DRC will be required to present a "Negative" COVID-19 PCR CERTIFICATE issued no later than 48 hours prior to boarding.

c) Other COVID-19 protocols to be observed while in the DRC

The DRC has taken various preventive measures against COVID-19 to curb the spread of the virus in line with guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO) and local health authorities. Citizens and visitors are requested to remain vigilant and to strictly observe barrier measures, including:

- Wearing masks (mandatory);
- Social distancing;
- Washing hands thoroughly with soap and running water;
- Use of hand sanitizers.

17. INSURANCE

Delegates are individually responsible for insurance coverage for personal injury, medical emergencies and loss of luggage and money.

18. RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION

A reception desk will be open at the entrance to the Pullman Hôtel, Kinshasa, from 4th to 14th July 2022.

19. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE 40TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PAPU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Participants are required to register by emailing the duly completed registration form to the following contact persons:

1. Office of the Minister

Mr. Tchierrya BAVUEZA, Advisor to the Minister in charge of Monitoring Agreements with Technical and Financial Partners.
Tel.: +243 818083269; e-mail: tchierrya.bavueza@ptntic.gouv.cd

2. ARPTC (Regulator)

Mrs. LUFULUABO TSHIBASU Françoise, Director of Postal Regulation
Tel. +243 815295495; e-mail: francoise.lufuluabo@arptc.gouv.cd

3. **SCPT SA (Designator Operator)**

Mrs. BILLO MUTANGANAY, Project Manager, Posts and International Relations.

Tel.: +243 991555475; e-mail: bibichebililo@gmail.com

4. **Mr. MANDJOLO MUSH Joseph.**

Tel: +243 998429125; e-mail: josemandjolo@gmail.com

20. OTHER SERVICES

The following services will be available at the Pullman Hotel premises:

- Mail service;
- Bank / Bureau de change;
- Travel agent;
- Telecommunications (Internet, mobile telephony).

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL DELEGATES TO KINSHASA AND WISH YOU A MEMORABLE STAY DURING THIS CONTINENTAL EVENT!!!